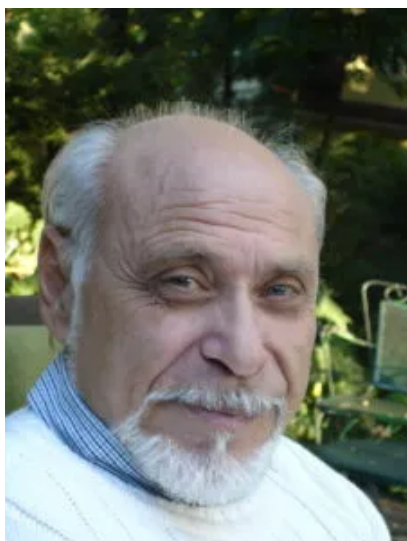


G-24 BRIEFING

KAHANE OXY-AT-THE-U.N. PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2024



We are saddened by the sudden passing of our beloved Assistant Director, Jacques Fomerand. On the day we were going to publish this newsletter in the first days of November, we learned of Jacques' passing...His last writing for Oxy is in the newsletter below. Jacques was at the Program's core since 2003. He brought wisdom, nuance, passion, and care to us repeatedly – on a daily basis – in that time. Jacques had an encyclopedic knowledge of the UN system. He was a consummate mentor, a dedicated educator, and an author of unusual and useful tomes, including a dictionary of the UN and a dictionary on human rights. Jacques was also a pianist, a tennis player, and a devotee of French cinema. He loved coffee, good wine, and teaching, but most importantly – he loved his students. Jacques is irreplaceable. We are forever indebted to him and at such a terrible loss without him. Our next issue will say more about Jacques' life and work.



Contents

2 WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

- 3 UN UPDATES
- SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE + UNGA
 - OH NO...ANOTHER SUMMIT?
 - PACT FOR THE FUTURE

4 IN THE CLASSROOM

5 NEW INTERNSHIP SITE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

6 MEET THE COHORT

The Kahane *Oxy-at-the-United Nations* Program is a semester-long program that allows Oxy seniors an opportunity to intern full-time in New York City at a UN agency, “country mission” (i.e., national delegation), or related non-governmental organization (NGO).

In addition to their internships, students are required to take two Diplomacy and World Affairs courses; these focus on Conflict Prevention and Human Rights. This year's cohort features 17 exceptional students taking on work, academics, and a new city.

This newsletter was produced by Raja Bella Hicks and Peter Vartanian.

WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Director Cynthia Rothschild



I was recently asked, “What’s different about the Program this year?” And, I offered two sets of responses. First, the overarching contexts in which we operate remain, somewhat dauntingly, the same. We still do our UN work in a climate of deep challenges to “multilateralism.” Can governments really work efficiently with one another within the UN system? And, critically, do they even want to?

Oxy students do their good UN work under these sustained truths: the climate change crisis poses threats to the planet; bombs rain down; people don’t have enough to eat or proper shelter, and people are killed because of who they are or are perceived to be.

So, in 2024, what will the UN and the governments within it do about these daily crises? We also must acknowledge the specific cloud of the 2024 U.S. election, with a resurgent right-wing leading disinformation campaigns and fueling an unprecedented level of vitriol in US national discourse.

Despite these anxiety-producing realities – here we are in another vibrant UN Program semester! We’ve got 17 great students this year. They’re busily monitoring, analyzing, researching, writing, planning, and speech writing. Sometimes they’re working alongside Ambassadors, heads of agencies, and executive directors of NGOs. And, sometimes, they’re providing subtler support for critical day-to-day programming. Always, though, all are being smart, wise, and helpful – fulfilling important agendas.

We have an interesting UN addition this year, and that’s a placement at the new UN Anti-Racism Office, which just secured its funding. In terms of NGOs, we’ve started to work with Noor (an anti-fascism / anti-extremism group) and the International Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA World). So, our roster for this year is the Costa Rican and UK Missions, UNDP, UNHCR, the UN Anti Racism Office, UNFPA, ILGA World, GPPAC, International Planned Parenthood Federation, and Noor. See the student bios for deeper descriptions!



UN UPDATES

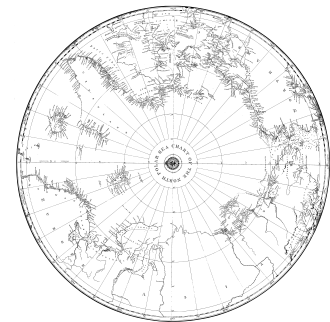


Summit of the Future & 79th General Assembly

Written By: Raja Bella Hicks

The UN Summit of the Future began on September 22, 2024. World leaders gathered in New York at the high-level event to outline a clear vision of multilateralism and strengthen global governance for current and future generations. Speaking to the UN General Assembly, Heads of States adopted the “Pact for the Future”, the major outcome document of the Summit that details “clear commitments and deliverables on a range of issues, with strong attention to human rights, gender, and sustainable development”. The Pact includes the Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations, signaling two top priorities of the event: emerging technologies and youth. Prior to the Summit, UN Headquarters hosted Action Days, where civil society, the private sector, youth, and other external stakeholders had a chance to engage in the preliminary work of the meeting.

**Read about the Pact for the Future...
[Here!](#)**



Assistant Director, Prof. Jacques Fomerand “Oh no... Another Summit? Another Pact?”

Against the fraught backdrop of a perhaps unprecedented fractured international society, it may be tempting to dismiss the recent Summit of the Future as a costly, and distracting instance of the UN once again acting as a “tower of babble.”

A more profound reality is that these global conclaves, over time, have nurtured and legitimized desirable changes that, in the long term, do make a difference, however incremental and imperfect they may be. So, from my standpoint, it was not futile to produce a “Pact” reminding everyone that the armed conflicts in Europe and the Middle East should be governed by the rule of law; that there is a widening wealth gap between North and South, which is overshadowed by an accumulated funding deficit for development amounting to \$7 trillion since the 1970s; that by 2030 some 600 million people may still live in extreme poverty and that the ominously increasing signs of a climate breakdown should be addressed. We may never reach the Nirvana of a new era of “networked and inclusive multilateralism”, but this ongoing nagging should be welcome. It should continue, even if it may entail seemingly Sisyphean tasks.

UN UPDATES // IN THE CLASSROOM

Conflict Prevention: Prof. Fomerand

Recently, I told a neighbor that I was teaching a UN-related course on conflict prevention. Intrigued, he queried me about course contents. I spelled out some agenda items, which include early warning, mediation, the role of regional bodies, ways and means, policies and tools to address the root causes of conflict and/or emerging global threats....Still dubitative, he wondered if the name of the course was not a misnomer given the turmoil prevalent throughout the world. So, I dug into my memory of French literature classics... “Sometimes, we need to ask for the moon. There is nothing unreasonable about it,” I said. “Especially when the city burns and the innocent are massacred.” We fell silent and continued our dominical walk. Students are still attending the course.



Human Rights: Prof. Rothschild

For a few years, our class has focused on less common entry points in the human rights world and has included an emphasis on gender, sexuality, and social movement politics. This year, we also address the human rights implications of “Project 2025”, the extremist right-wing agenda that could undermine the constructive functioning of the US government – and the human rights system itself. Its “Mandate for Leadership” plans to, among other strategies, disembowel protections for public education, our already too-weak health system, and various anti-discrimination policies. And, notably for us, the Project 2025 agenda has drastic implications regarding the UN and other multilateral spaces; it dictates a dangerous wielding of power inside and outside US borders. It's not only an academic exercise—we all should strengthen our understanding of the rights currently at risk in this political climate.



Guest Lecturers: Mariam Jalabi

On occasion, we invite guest speakers to talk with us. One recent example is Mariam Jalabi, who spoke in Professor Fomerand’s class. We expect to hear from a number of additional guest speakers.

As the Representative of the Syrian Opposition Coalition to the United Nations and a founding member of the Syrians Women’s Political Movement, **Mariam Jalabi** endeavors to increase women’s inclusion in politics and decision-making processes of mediation, conflict resolution, and peace building.



NEW INTERNSHIP SITE: THE UN'S ANTI-RACISM OFFICE

Occasionally, we have exciting new opportunities for internships—we just added this to our roster!

Written By: Matthew Vickers

The United Nations Anti-Racism Office was established under the direction of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution A/78/384 to combat racism, discrimination, and prejudice within the UN System. The Office is the latest manifestation of the United Nations' long history of fighting racism in global governance, ensuring the defense of the dignity and humanity of all people, nationalities, and backgrounds. It is deeply rooted in the Organization's founding documents, namely, the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The impetus for the creation came about as a direct result of the global anti-racist uprisings after the killing of George Floyd in 2020, which led the UN Secretary-General (SG) to proactively create the Task Force on Addressing and Promoting Dignity for All in the United Nations. In December 2021, the Task Force produced a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) to address racism within the Organization and proposed mechanisms for monitoring, documenting, and reporting incidents of racial discrimination as well as disseminating policy and creating an international network of Anti-Racism Advocates (ARAs) for UN-related activities. The Office works closely with the Special Adviser for Addressing Racism in the Workplace, which is also a recently created position.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Karl Rivera, SIT Coordinator



Throughout the semester, Karl works with students as the health and wellness point person. They also plan some fun activities for the cohort when they're not working!

Karl Rivera is an Artist, Designer, and Cultural Worker. They hold an independently designed B.A. in Visual Sociology from Wheaton College, where they were a Posse Scholar, and an M.A. in Sociology and Social Anthropology from the Central European University. They have led and designed workshops in Hungary, Mexico, Argentina, South Africa, Senegal, Vietnam, and across the continental United States. With an ardent zeal for black study, queer method, embodiment, and cities., they use their anti-disciplinary experience to facilitate community building and curate local excursions for the *Oxy-at-the-U.N.* Program.

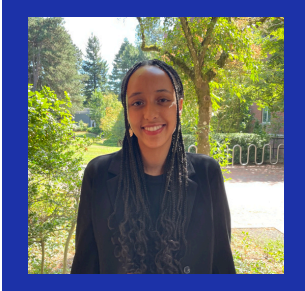
Food Tour



Rain or shine, let them eat! Organized by Karl Rivera, our School for International Training (SIT) partner, students participated in a food tour of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. They tried various cuisines, from Taiwanese peanut noodles to a classic Ashkenazi Babka. Not only did they get a great slice of pizza from Scarr's, but they also got a slice of NYC's rich cultural history from their amazing tour guide, Arun.

MEET THE OXY DELEGATION

Bernadette Robinson, UK Misson



Bernadette Robinson is a Diplomacy and World Affairs (DWA) major and a Black Studies and Japanese double minor. She is interning at the UK Mission to the UN this fall, working on their GA and human rights team. Most of her job will include working on resolutions within the Third Committee, which addresses social, humanitarian, and cultural issues. Bernadette's role will primarily involve writing reports, taking notes during negotiations, and organizing events with the human rights team. The resolutions she is focusing on revolve around violence against women, the death penalty, and the Durban Declaration, which is the UN blueprint to combat racism. Outside her internship, she is excited to explore all the different restaurants, museums, and events New York has to offer!

Charlie Caver, UK Misson



Charlie Carver is working at the UK Mission, specifically with the communications team. His team's work consists of publishing official statements by UK permanent representatives and high-ranking officials in the UN to their website, creating social media posts explaining policy positions, and working to maintain relationships with both UK-based and international press. He enjoys exploring NYC and watching soccer on the weekends (specifically Arsenal FC)! One of his most interesting experiences so far has been attending a Security Council meeting on the UN assistance mission to Afghanistan. Overall, Charlie's placement has given him valuable insight into how a UN country's mission operates. He was especially excited to assist during the UNGA High-Level Week and Summit of the Future!

Connor McConnell, UNDP



Connor McConnell is a senior who is double majoring in Economics and DWA. He is interested in consulting, non-profit management, program development, and health, particularly in the creative and humanitarian sectors. Before his time at the United Nations Development Program, Connor worked in strategic consulting, communications, and fundraising, and supported The Virgil Abloh Foundation, the Planned Parenthood Federation, the Global Fund, AgriCorps, and many more NGOs. Connor has also led the development of a fundraising strategy for "The Rain Collective," an anti-human-trafficking organization. In his free time, Connor likes to play guitar, go to concerts, and spend time outdoors!

Dalilah Buffalo, IPPF



Dalilah Buffalo is a DWA major and is interning at the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) this fall. As a part of the IPPF UN Liaison team, she will be monitoring Third Committee UN General Assembly resolutions that address the empowerment of women and girls, gender-based violence, youth and adolescent engagement, and the advancement of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. Dalilah will also assist with efforts to bolster the engagement of IPPF membership associations to ensure their voices and experiences are echoed in all advocacy spaces. She is excited to work with IPPF and broaden her understanding of civil society engagement within the UN! A fun fact about Dalilah is that she loves pit bulls and running into them on the streets of New York!

MEET THE OXY DELEGATION



Dennis Isaak, UNHCR

Dennis Isaak is currently interning with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an organization dedicated to protecting and supporting refugees, stateless individuals, forcibly displaced communities, and internally displaced persons. His role involves reporting on the General Assembly (GA) during High-Level Week for the Europe and West Africa regions, covering the GA Third Committee, and closely monitoring negotiations between GA Third Committee states and UNHCR on an omnibus Resolution. Dennis is grateful for this incredible experience of working with such a welcoming and dedicated team and is excited for what's to come in the rest of his internship.



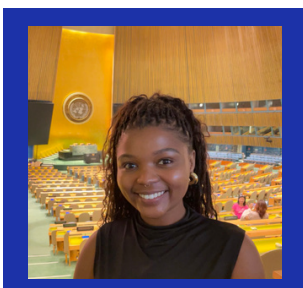
Elham Nasratullah, GPPAC

Elham Nasratullah is interning at the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC). His site is a member-led network of civil society organizations, and its work centers around Peace and Security. His projects include research and monitoring of *Youth, Peace, and Security* (YPS)- and *Women, Peace, and Security* (WPS)-related developments within the UN. One of Elham's other projects includes writing a report on the proposals put forth by the member states on the restructuring of the International Financial Architecture (IFA). As part of this work, he seeks to discover recommendations that are based on the interests of local peace-builders within the new IFA. An avid fan of NYC and its food, Elham's favorite halal cart food is a chicken and lamb combo over rice.



Jacob Whitney, UK Misson

Jacob Whitney is a DWA major interning with the UK Mission to the United Nations' Management, Finance, and Reform team. Jacob is excited to contribute to the team's work and gain insight into its role at the Mission and the UN. Through his studies and personal pursuits, Jacob has developed a keen interest in multilateral diplomacy's role in preventing armed conflict and addressing some of its threat multipliers, such as a global rise in nationalism. Jacob especially looks forward to attending the UNGA's Fifth Committee meetings and learning how member states negotiate budget resolutions to fund everything from the UN Secretariat's pension fund to critical peacekeeping operations around the world. He also looks forward to collecting any quality chocolate along the way.

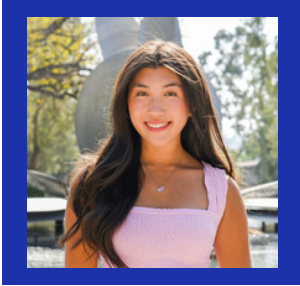


Joy Mopeli, UK Misson

Joy Mopeli is a DWA major interning with the UK Permanent Mission to the UN on the Humanitarian, Peacebuilding, and Development (HPD) team. She supported the team during High-Level Week and will keep doing this for the Second Committee season, which is the Economic and Financial Committee. The files and campaigns Joy has supported include disaster risk reduction, food security, gender and biodiversity, health, international trade, and financial systems, as well as social development. She also looks forward to engaging with Global South and African states on these issues. Through HPD, Joy followed and attended resolutions and international treaty negotiations and joined General Assembly meetings on behalf of the UK to produce readouts. A fun fact about Joy is her love for ginger ale and fries.

MEET THE OXY DELEGATION

Lauren Chin, UNFPA



Lauren Chin is interning at the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in the Gender and Human Rights Branch. Lauren works on various issues of gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a specific focus on gender-based violence. Her semester will conclude with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence global campaign, where she will be hosting events discussing the historical roots of gender-based violence, sexual violence during conflict, and femicide. She also works on the UN System-Wide Action Plan, which promotes gender mainstreaming across UN work. Lauren has loved being in the city and spending time in Central Park.

Matthew Vickers, UN Anti-Racism Office



Matthew Vickers is a DWA major in the UN Secretariat's Anti-Racism Office (ARO). Throughout his time studying human rights in the DWA department and participating in campus organizing, Matthew has always been interested in human rights, social movements, and global governance. He is particularly interested in partnership and research arms of the United Nations systems, entrenching and solidifying the relationship between civil society and the Organization to create a truly global forum for all peoples and nationalities. At the Anti-Racism Office, Matthew is currently working on developing a glossary of terms, working on UN rejuvenation from an anti-racist perspective, and contributing to developing partnerships to advance the cause of anti-racism across the globe.

Molly Sparrow, IPPF



Molly Sparrow is a DWA major and Critical Theory and Social Justice minor interning with the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). Through her research and Oxy courses, Molly has developed a fascination with how norms are produced and spread, and especially the role conspiracy theories play in shaping multilateralism. Molly works closely with the Opposition Movements Team at IPPF to monitor backlashes to sexual and reproductive health and rights during UNGA sessions. Molly is using this information to develop a comprehensive map of opposition coalitions and their rhetoric. As an amateur powerlifter, you can often catch Molly doing her DWA readings between sets to keep up with her independent and school research!

Nate Lundstrom, Costa Rican Mission



Nate Lundstrom is a DWA major interning at the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations this semester. His research interests are in the intersections of global migrations, economic and social rights, and development. Working primarily on speechwriting for the Costa Rican Ambassador, he is excited to learn more about policy-making and effective communication strategies for achieving social change in the UN system. He is eagerly looking ahead to accompanying the Ambassador to General Assembly discussions on the future of peace and security. When outside of the General Assembly, you can find Nate on the pitch for Vibes FC — a soccer team of hooligans-turned-adults — based in New York City.

Peter Vartanian, Costa Rican Mission



Peter Vartanian, who hails from the Austrian Alps, is a DWA major working with the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations. Under both the Chair of the First Committee and the Sixth Committee's Working Group on Universal Jurisdiction, he supports diplomatic initiatives related to international security, as well as the advancement of global legal frameworks and regulatory cooperation. Peter assists in second-chairing meetings, participating in informal consultations, and engaging with the International Law Commission to further Costa Rica's multilateral objectives. Beyond this work, Peter has developed an encyclopedic knowledge of New York City's best caffeine hideouts and tries one new energy drink each week.

Raja Bella Hicks, UK Mission



Raja Bella Hicks is a DWA major from Salt Lake City, Utah. As the Political Section intern at the UK Mission to the United Nations, she has supported bilateral requests, tracked multilateral debates, and participated in negotiations. Raja has helped organize ministerial-level events on various topics, including Women, Peace, and Security in Sudan and Inclusive Recovery in Ukraine. This internship has given her insight into how peace and security intersects sustainable development, a deep interest of hers. When Raja is not in the Security Council, she can be found trying new foods and exploring the different areas of New York. A fun fact about her is that she was recently involved in a wild camel chase in Cairo.

Renn Stearns, ILGA World



Renn Stearns is a DWA major from Montana, who is also on Oxy's Cross Country and Track teams. He is interning with the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association (ILGA World). Early this Fall, he focused on advocacy work at the UN's Summit of the Future. Renn is excited to regularly attend ECOSOC and UNGA Third Committee meetings (which cover social, cultural, humanitarian, and human rights issues) to monitor proceedings related to rights connected to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics and report back to ILGA World's headquarters in Geneva. He will also be helping to coordinate the ILGA World's bi-annual World Conference in South Africa. Renn is looking forward to experiencing NYC in its fall foliage — and around Christmas!

Sofia Guerrero Gonzalez, Noor



Sofia Guerrero Gonzalez is a sociology major with a double minor in Latino/a & Latin American Studies and Studio Art— interning at the Noor Network (NGO). Noor is a feminist organization that uses intersectionality internationally to tackle anti-rights agents and to work on environmental issues at UNGA meetings. She is excited to work and do research with Noor on increasingly prominent violent extremism and to attend events to report back findings on key issues.. She is also interested in learning more about the intersectionality of similarities and differences in human rights issues across nations. An interesting fact about Sofia is that she is a double black belt in Kung Fu and Eskrima.

Will Petersen, UNDP



Will Petersen is interning at the United Nations Development Programme in the HIV and Health Department this semester. His work focuses on two main areas: drug policy reform and “LGBTI inclusion” in the country and UN analysis of data, development and human rights. He has been involved in organizing summits on drug reform, revising UNDP's policy positions, and coordinating guest speakers from UN member states to share their perspectives on global policy shifts. On the LGBTI inclusion side, he is collaborating with Outright International (an NGO) to help develop a new LGBTI Inclusion Index to measure how countries address homophobia worldwide. Outside of work, Will has been making the most of his time in New York — he has already tried 19 new restaurants since moving here!